

# House File 591 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY SCHULTZ, DEYOE, PETTENGILL,  
ALONS, TYMESON, DE BOEF,  
KAUFMANN, DRAKE, TJEPKES,  
MAY, SWEENEY, and BAUDLER

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a task force to study  
2 the division of school districts with enrollments greater than  
3 two thousand five hundred pupils.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
5 TLSB 2357YH 83  
6 kh/rj/5

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1 1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION == TASK FORCE ON  
1 2 OPTIMALLY SIZED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.  
1 3 1. The department of education shall convene a task force  
1 4 to study the advisability and practicability of dividing  
1 5 school districts with enrollments of over two thousand five  
1 6 hundred students to create optimally sized school districts to  
1 7 improve student opportunity and achievement.  
1 8 2. a. The director of the department of education shall  
1 9 appoint members to the task force which shall include  
1 10 education practitioners and stakeholders, including but not  
1 11 limited to educational technology and school transportation  
1 12 specialists, school business officials, and persons who  
1 13 represent rural, urban, and suburban school districts  
1 14 throughout Iowa; a professional with experience or expertise  
1 15 in state and local taxation matters; and other stakeholders as  
1 16 appropriate.  
1 17 b. The task force shall select a chairperson from its  
1 18 membership. A majority of the members of the task force shall  
1 19 constitute a quorum.  
1 20 3. The study shall include but not be limited to the  
1 21 following:  
1 22 a. A review of incentives intended to encourage large  
1 23 school districts to divide to create optimally sized school  
1 24 districts.  
1 25 b. Determination of the costs and methods for implementing  
1 26 the incentives identified.  
1 27 c. A review of the barriers to dividing large school  
1 28 districts to create optimally sized school districts,  
1 29 including but not limited to athletic and community  
1 30 identification and infrastructure deficits.  
1 31 d. An analysis of the optimal school and school district  
1 32 size, with consideration given to student transportation times  
1 33 and costs, and where the boundaries of such optimally sized  
1 34 school districts would be established on a proposed statewide  
1 35 reorganization map.  
2 1 e. An evaluation of the effect technology may have on  
2 2 efforts to divide large school districts to create optimally  
2 3 sized school districts.  
2 4 f. An analysis of the trends that will affect the need for  
2 5 and advisability of dividing large school districts to create  
2 6 optimally sized school districts and sharing efforts over the  
2 7 next five-year and ten-year time periods.  
2 8 g. An analysis of the effect of dividing large school  
2 9 districts to create optimally sized school districts on the  
2 10 status of and federal funding to schools and school districts  
2 11 under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L.  
2 12 No. 107=110.  
2 13 h. Identification of actions that may be taken by the  
2 14 state, the department of education, area education agencies,  
2 15 and stakeholders that have proven to assist large school  
2 16 district efforts to divide into optimally sized school

2 17 districts.

2 18 4. The task force shall report its findings and  
2 19 recommendations, including any recommendations for statutory  
2 20 changes, to the state board of education and the general  
2 21 assembly by January 15, 2010.

2 22 EXPLANATION

2 23 This bill directs the department of education to convene a  
2 24 task force to study the advisability and practicability of  
2 25 dividing school districts with enrollments of over 2,500  
2 26 students to create optimally sized school districts to improve  
2 27 student opportunity and achievement.

2 28 The director of the department is directed to appoint  
2 29 members to the task force which shall include education  
2 30 practitioners and stakeholders, including but not limited to  
2 31 educational technology and school transportation specialists,  
2 32 school business officials, and persons who represent rural,  
2 33 urban, and suburban school districts throughout Iowa; a  
2 34 professional with experience or expertise in state and local  
2 35 taxation matters; and other stakeholders as appropriate.

3 1 The task force must submit its findings and recommendations  
3 2 in a report to the state board of education and the general  
3 3 assembly by January 15, 2010.

3 4 LSB 2357YH 83

3 5 kh/rj/5.1